The Government have duly considered the suggestions made by the industry and have taken several steps to accelerate the growth and development and exports. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernization of textile industry has been launched. Custom duty on selected machinery items has been reduced from 15% to 5%. CVD on selected textile machinery has been abolished. The duty drawbacks rates have been revised. The suggestions made by the industry have been duly considered keeping in view the interest of all competing sectors for balanced growth and incorporated in the Xth plan document for consideration by the Government.

Employment opportunities by Textile Industry

†4088. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :
SHRI KAPILSIBAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the textile industry in the country figures amongst top five industries generating maximum employment opportunities;

(b) if so, which place is held by the textile industry amongst these five industries; and

(c) the estimated total number of persons working in this industry at the beginning and at the end of 1990, respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After agriculture, textile industry is second largest employment provider.

(c) The textile industry is pre-dominantly in decentralized sector and as such authentic information with regard to number of persons employed in different segments is not available. However, textile sector contributes around 28% of the total industrial workforce. The details of number of persons working in cotton/man-made fibre textile mill sector, decentralized powerloom sector, woollen sector, readymade garment industry etc. excluding sericulture, jute

†Original notice ol the question was received in Hindi.

handicrafts and hand loom of textile industry at the beginning mid at the end of 90's are given below :

Sl. No.	Item	Employment (In Lakh) 31-3-1990	31-3-1999
1.	Cotton/Man-made fibre textile mill sector (Non-SSI)	11.02	10.37
2.	Cotton/man-made fibre spinning (SSI)	0.24*	0.29
	Man-made fibre and filament yam industry	0.56.S	0.74
4.	Decentralized powerloom sector	26.10	39.08
5.	Woollen industry	—	12.00
6.	Readymade garment industry	30.00	35.40

* As Oil 31-03-1997

#As on 31-03-1992

Lockout in Khardah Jute Mill

4089. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Khardah Jute Mill, a public sector National Jute Manufacturing Mill has declared lockout rendering ten thousand employees jobless;

(b) if so. the reasons therefor: and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to get the mill opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJA Y KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. There was a work suspension with effect from 25-06-2001 in the Khardah unit of NJMC affecting 2150 permanent workmen.

(b) The work suspension in Khardah unit was declared since the Budli workmen illegally struck work with effect from 19-03-2001 and created law and order problem in protest against retirement of 208 workmen, who had already superannuated.

(c) The work suspension has ceased with effect from 3-8-2001, following a tripartite meeting held on 2-8-2001'and signing of a Memorandum of Settlement.